


PATENT

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I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 571-273-8300 on the date shown below to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 9-9-05
Himanshu S. Amin**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): Eric J. Horvitz, *et al.*

Examiner: Alina A. Boutah

Serial No: 10/036,566

Art Unit: 2143

Filing Date: December 21, 2001

Title: METHODS, TOOLS, AND INTERFACES FOR THE DYNAMIC ASSIGNMENT OF PEOPLE TO GROUPS TO ENABLE ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT DATED AUGUST 10, 2005

Dear Sir:

This Reply is in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on August 10, 2005 in connection with the above-identified patent application.

The Examiner requires restriction to one of the following two groups of claims:

Group I – Claims 1, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37-39, 41, 42 and 45-47 drawn to a computer-implemented method of identifying a communication channel and a communication group; and

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Group II – Claim 69, drawn to a method for managing group communication.

Applicants' representative hereby elects with traverse Group I (Claims 1, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37-39, 41, 42 and 45-47) for further prosecution on the merits.

Should there be any questions regarding this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with submission of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP954US].

Respectfully submitted,

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